

RARY



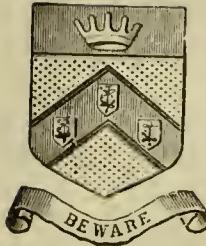
BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

Medical Officer of Health's
ANNUAL REPORT



1939.

CHORLEY :
ALFRED HILL, PRINTER, LIVESEY STREET.
1940.



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BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mayor:

*COUNCILLOR T. HAMER, J.P.

Aldermen:

Alderman A. GILLETT.

" R. MARSDEN.

" J. FEARNHEAD, J.P.

" R. GENT.

Alderman A. TAYLOR.

" †Mrs. GILLETT, J.P.

" †T. W. HALL.

" J. SHARPLES.

Councillors:

Councillor R. SMITH.

" F. BRINDLE.

" T. HEATON.

" Mrs. EDWARDS.

" E. WARBURTON.

" J. J. THORNLEY.

" A. WILSON.

" A. V. TOOTELL.

" W. SUMNER.

" C. WILLIAMS.

" Miss HIBBERT, J.P.

Councillor J. B. HINDLE.

" F. KNOWLES.

" E. WILDMAN.

" E. HOWARTH.

" J. W. HARTLEY, J.P.

" J. GREEN.

" E. BALL.

" J. ROGERSON.

" R. EVANS, J.P.

" Mrs. BAXENDALE.

" S. COOKSON.

Councillor G. B. FLETCHER.

Co-opted Members of Maternity & Child Welfare Committee:

Mrs. BURGESS.

Mrs. CRELLIN.

Mrs. A. STONE.

Town Clerk — GEORGE JACKSON.

*Chairman, Sanitary Committee.

†Chairman, Maternity & Child Welfare Committee.

‡Chairman, Housing & Town Planning Committee.

BOROUGH OF CHORLEY.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

ERIC C. DOWNER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M.

*Obstetric Consultant and Medical Officer to Consultant
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic:

K. V. BAILEY, M.C., M.D., M.R.C.P., M.C.O.G.

*Medical Officer to Routine Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics:

ISABEL T. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.O.G.

*Obstetric Consultant:

WILLIAM SIMPSON, M.D., M.C.O.G.

†Medical Officer, Orthopædic Clinic:

R. OLLERENSHAW, M.D., F.R.C.S.

†Oculist and Laryngologist:

W. SYKES, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

†Dental Anæsthetist:

DORIS H. DERBYSHIRE, M.B., Ch.B.

†Dentist:

T. F. HEALEY, L.D.S.

Chief Sanitary & Meat Inspector, Superintendent of Refuse Removal, Shops' Acts Inspector and Inspector under Contagious Diseases of Animals' Acts, etc.:

R. P. B. LUND, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. (Meat & Foods) R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. WARD, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. (Smoke, Meat & Foods) R.S.I.

T. MARSH, Cert. R.S.I. (resigned September, 1939).

F. MYERS, Cert. R.S.I. (appointed 1st November, 1939).

Health Visitors:

Miss A. A. WALSH, S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I.

Miss G. WOODS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerks:

Mr. R. HEAPS.

Miss PATTERSON.

Mr. A. ROBINSON.

*Part-time Officers.

†Part-time Officers, employed by the Education Committee and whose services are available for Maternity and Child Welfare Cases.

CLINICS 1939.

AT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 2 & 4, ST. THOMAS'S SQUARE, CHORLEY.

- CONSULTANT ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC:** Monthly, 1st Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- ROUTINE ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC:** Thursday (weekly), 10 a.m.
- ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT CLINIC:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.
- ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC:** Monthly, last Friday, 2 p.m.
- ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.
- EYE, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC:** 2nd Thursday in each month, 10 a.m.
- DENTAL CLINIC:** Monday, Tuesday and Friday, by appointment.
- INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:**
- ST. GEORGE'S STREET CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL—**
 Tuesday and Thursday, 2-30—4 p.m.
- EAVES LANE CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL—**
 Wednesday, 2-30—4 p.m.

Public Health Department,
2 & 4, St. Thomas's Square,
Chorley.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Chorley.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health Services and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1939. This report, which is of the nature of an interim report only, is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health conveyed in February, 1940, and modified by Circular 2067 of July, 1940.

It had been my hope to give you this year a survey report of the Sanitary needs of the Borough, but such is not possible.

This report will be found to be very short. 1939 was in every way an abnormal year. As the year wore on and the situation became more critical, my energies were more and more diverted from Public Health work into Civil Defence work. It is no exaggeration to say that the supervision of Public Health has, to some extent, been neglected. That was inevitable, and it is to avoid that dangerous state of affairs that I have at last, and with reluctance, asked that an Assistant Medical Officer of Health be appointed.

Little comment will be found on the problems of 1939. I will sum them up by saying that the war has created some entirely new problems in public health, that this will intensify, and that newer and more urgent problems will arise. They will be observed and studied as carefully as permitted and reports and advice furnished to you thereon.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC C. DOWNER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area in acres	4,292			
Population (Census, 1931)	30,796			
Population (Registrar-General's estimate, 1939)—				
(a) Calculating births	30,170			
(b) Calculating deaths	30,200			
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	7,552			
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Books, 1939)	9,033			
Number of houses erected during 1939	107			
Rateable value of the Borough	£154,196			
Product of 1d. rate	£587			
Live Births—	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate	262	235	497	
Illegitimate	8	13	21	
	Total ...	270	248	518
Still Births	12	18	30	
Deaths...	247	225	472	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—				
Puerperal Sepsis			—	
Other Puerperal causes			3	
	Total	3	

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

	Chorley	England and Wales
Birth rate	17.15	... 15
Still Birth rate	0.9	... 0.9
Death rate	15.62	... 12.1
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births) ...	77	... 50
(a) Legitimate children	74	Not available
(b) Illegitimate children	142	Not available

Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births)	5.47	...	2.93
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5.8	...	4.6
Measles	0.00	...	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.03	...	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.00	...	0.03
Diphtheria	0.23	...	0.05
Influenza...	0.73	...	0.21

The following table shows the cause of Infant deaths in 1939 and 1938 :--

Cause of Death	No. of Infant Deaths	
	1939	1938
Measles	0	..... 1
Whooping Cough	0	..... 3
Pneumonia	2	..... 8
Diarrhoea	3	..... 1
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, etc.	29	..... 15
Accidental	0	..... 1
Tuberculosis	0	..... 0
Other Diseases	6	..... 5
	—	—
	40	34
	—	—

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The conditions of employment for the first eight months of the war were determined by influences similar to those operating throughout 1938. Since the declaration of war there has been a constant absorption of men and women, and to a less extent, boys and girls, into employment. The calling up of various age groups has removed from the town a proportion of its younger able-bodied men, but many remain in reserved occupations. A new factor has been the demand for female labour in connection with certain war industries, and the long hours worked at certain establishments. This has not been without effect on family life, habits, and catering, and must in the long run influence the health unfavourably. This will, however, be more obvious in 1940.

CAUSE OF DEATH FOR THE YEAR 1939

DISEASE	M		F		DISEASE		M		F	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Smallpox	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	5	7
Typhoid Fever	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	9	6
Measles	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	4	1
Scarlet Fever	Peptic Ulcer ...	...	...	...	4	1
Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	2	1
Diphtheria	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	1	—
Influenza	Cirrhosis of the Liver ...	...	...	...	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	Other Diseases of the Liver ...	...	...	...	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	...	4	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	...	...	...	15	13
Other Tubercular Diseases	Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilis	Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	...	...	—	3
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. ...	...	...	...	19	10
Cancer...	Senility ...	...	...	...	1	5
Diabetes	Suicide ...	...	...	...	3	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	Other Defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	19	21
Heart Disease	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Violence	Total ...	...	...	...	247	225
Aneurism						
Other Circulatory Diseases						

SECTION B.

**General Provisions of
Health Services.**

(1) ANTE AND POST NATAL CARE.

The Council's scheme now consists of :—

- (a) Routine ante and post natal clinics held weekly.
- (b) Consultant ante and post natal clinic held at monthly intervals.
- (c) Ante and post natal services by general practitioners for women not entitled to medical benefit under the National Health Insurance Acts and not able to afford the services of a doctor.
- (d) Hospital facilities for ante and post natal complications.
- (e) Obstetric consultants for ante and post natal emergencies.
- (f) Free milk when required on medical grounds for necessitous expectant mothers.

The midwifery and "medical aid" services are provided by Lancashire County Council.

A summary of the work of the clinics, etc., during 1939 is shown below :—

	Attendances		No. of Patients			
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal		Post-Natal	
			Chorley	County	Chorley	County
Routine Clinic (Dr. Walsh) ...	438	75	137	22	63	4
Consultant Clinic (Dr. Bailey) ...	113	—	21 (23 2)	3	—	—
General Practitioner Scheme...	1	2	1	—	1	—
Total (individual patients)	552	17	159	55	64	4

These 159 Chorley cases expressed as a percentage of the total (live and still) births yield 29, as compared with 30.4% in 1938, 33.4% in 1937, and 33.5% in 1936.

(2) MIDWIVES.

No change during 1939.

(3) INFANT WELFARE.

Two infant welfare centres are provided on hired premises by the Council, and three sessions are held each week. A voluntary Ladies' Committee works in conjunction with each of the centres. These ladies undertake the work of providing teas for the mothers and assist generally in the clerical work.

The following attendances were made at these centres during 1939 :—

Name of Centre.	Meetings held	Total attendances.	No. of individual babies who attended.			M.O.'s consultations.
			0-1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	0-1 yr.	
St. George's Street	92	2390	1787	261	136	439
Eaves Lane	46	1853	891	160	72	355
School Clinic .....	...	.....	.....	...	42	42
Total	138	4243	2678	421	250	836
Total, 1938 ...	136	4424	2380	388	159	729

Generally, as soon as a child learns to walk his attendances at the Welfare Centres cease, and until he comes within the purview of the School Medical Service his contact with the health services is negligible.

The parents may seek attention for illness or gross defect, but there is little supervision by the Local Authority of the child's growth and development during the important years preceding the child's entry into school.

The Medical Officer of Health attends the Welfare Centres as frequently as his other duties permit.

In the majority of cases advice was sought in regard to diet, nurture or hygiene. Where further measures of treatment were required the children were referred to private practitioners or the appropriate clinic.

(4) ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

During 1939, 246 attendances were made by children under school age; the number of individual children who attended was 31, and of these 5 received regular treatment from the orthopædic nurse.

Two children were admitted to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital for operation, and splints or surgical appliances were provided for 11 children.

(5) ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT CLINIC.

The number of children under 5 years of age who received treatment at this clinic during 1939 was 33 (25 Chorley cases and 8 cases from the Lancashire County Area), and 504 attendances were made by these children. In 1938 the number of children who attended and the number of attendances were 70 and 1,306 respectively. At the end of 1939, 5 Chorley cases remained on the books.

DENTAL CLINIC.

During 1939, 90 children under 5 years of age received treatment at the dental clinic, and in 57 of these cases a general anaesthetic was used.

EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

During 1939, 88 children under school age were seen by Dr. Sykes, and spectacles were prescribed in 2 cases. Five children were admitted to hospital for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC.

During 1939, 42 children under school age were treated at the minor ailments clinic provided by the School Medical Service.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Two Health Visitors are employed by the Council, and the major portion of their time is devoted to visiting infants and young children in their homes. During 1939 the Health Visitors made the following visits :—

First visits to babies	...	...	...	...	532
Visits to still-births	...	...	...	...	27
Re-visits 0-1 year	...	...	...	...	1333
Re-visits 1-5 years	...	...	...	...	1960
Special visits...	...	...	...	...	123
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	68
No access	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	4046

MEDICAL OUT-RELIEF.

This is carried out by the District Medical Officers appointed by the Public Assistance Authority.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Facilities for the diagnosis and free treatment of venereal diseases are provided by the Lancashire County Council. No treatment centre exists in the Borough, but there are centres in Preston, Wigan, Bolton and Blackburn.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Facilities for the treatment and diagnosis of Tuberculosis are provided by Lancashire County Council, and the local dispensary is at 30, St. Thomas's Road, Chorley. A voluntary care committee works in association with the Tuberculosis officers.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Health visitors act as Infant Life Protection Visitors. At 31st December, 1939, there was 1 foster child on the register.

NURSING HOMES.

There are no registered Nursing Homes in the town and no application for registration was received during 1939.

FREE MILK SUPPLY.

Where the family income is below the scale adopted by the Council, and where, on medical grounds, additional nourishment is required, "accredited" milk is supplied free to expectant and nursing mothers and to infants and young children. During 1939, $1,977\frac{1}{8}$ gallons were supplied, as compared with $1,019\frac{5}{8}$ gallons in 1938, 1,583 gallons in 1937, and 1,165 gallons in 1936. The recipients of this milk were 91 : 17 expectant mothers, 29 nursing mothers, and 45 children. No dried milks are supplied or sold.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

One thousand copies of "Better Health" are distributed free throughout the town each month.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town's water supply, obtained from Liverpool Corporation Waterworks at Rivington, continues to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1939 the following drains and sewers were laid :—

9"	Sewer	8 yards	12"	Surface Sewer	179 yards
9"	"	41 "	12"	"	100 "
12"	"	114 "	9"	"	36 "
9"	"	87 "	9"	"	110 "
9"	"	51 "	12"	"	207 "
9"	"	6 "	12"	"	32 "
			9"	"	46 "
			9"	"	48 "
			9"	"	23 "
			6"	"	20 "
			15"	"	96 "
			12"	"	29 "
			9"	"	381 "
			21"	"	370 "
			15"	"	150 "
			9"	"	51 "

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers and streams in the Borough are inspected regularly by the Inspectors of the Ribble Joint Committee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation in the Borough at the end of 1939 was as follows :—

Privy Middens	22
Closets attached to above Privy Middens ...	27
Pail Closets	75
Waste Water Closets	810
Fresh Water Closets	9360

During 1939 56 conversions of waste water closets to fresh water closets were made.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The town's refuse, with the exception of condemned meat and offal, was disposed of by controlled tipping on the Yarrow House site. The condemned meat, etc., from the slaughter-house has been disposed of by the sale to the Blackburn Products, Ltd.

LAVATORIES AND URINALS.

There are 23 public lavatories and 5 urinals in the town, and the conduct and supervision of these are under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The provision of further conveniences and the modernisation of the present premises should receive serious consideration from the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The total number of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1939 was 8,517. The number of premises showing defects or nuisances was 924, and 924 informal notices of the work required to remedy these defects or nuisances were served. The number of informal notices which were complied with during 1939 was 1,040, including 161 which were served in 1938.

At the end of the year the works specified in 45 informal notices had not been carried out.

During 1939 the Local Authority served 12 statutory notices under the Housing Acts, 53 under the Public Health Acts, and 11 under the Chorley Corporation Act. At the end of the year the work specified in 18 of these notices had not been done.

As a result of the Sanitary Inspector's efforts the following nuisances were abated during 1939 :—

Stoppages of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	95
Stoppages of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	22
Stoppages of Yard Drains	...	...	...	210
Defective Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	167
Defective Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	50
Defective Yard Drains	...	...	...	44
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	39
Defective Slop Pipes	...	...	...	62
Defective Eaves, Gutters and Spouts	...	...	...	64
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	16
Dirty Yards	...	...	...	7
Defective Ash Bins	...	...	...	253
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	16
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	72
<hr/>				
Total	...	...	...	1117
<hr/>				
Total, 1938	...	...	...	1156
<hr/>				

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

48 smoke observations were taken during 1939, and in 1 case was the emission of smoke excessive and was reported to the Committee. Legal proceedings were taken in regard to three cases of chimney firing.

SHOPS.

During the year 1,144 visits were paid to shops in regard to the provisions of the Shops Acts.

SHOPS. HOURS OF CLOSING ACT.

During the year 5,054 observations were made to ascertain if the above Act was being observed. 17 cases of trading during prohibited hours were discovered and the occupiers warned verbally. Seven letters were written to shopkeepers setting out the times when their shops had to be closed.

One shopkeeper was reported for selling articles after prohibited hours.

Two shopkeepers were prosecuted and two fines of 10/- were imposed. Two purchasers in the above cases were fined respectively 7/6 and 5/-.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 6 premises registered for the purpose of carrying on trades classified as offensive, namely : tripe dressing 4, gut scraping 1, and tanning 1. These premises are inspected to see that they conform to the regulations.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

No action has been taken in the matter of making bye-laws in regard to fish frying.

PIG KEEPING.

No contravention of the bye-laws were brought to the notice of this department during 1939.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

No special action was taken in regard to the destruction of rats and mice. During the year 65 complaints of infestation by rats were received, and measures were taken to clear the premises in each case.

RAG FLOCK ACTS.

There are 5 premises in the Borough where rag flock is sold or used. No samples of flock were taken for analysis.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

In the Borough there are 3 caravans used for human habitation and no nuisance in regard to these was found.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 2 common lodging houses in the town. In normal times these premises are sufficient for the needs of the town. At present, while the Royal Ordnance Factory is under construction, the accommodation available is insufficient and many private houses are being used as common lodging houses—in fact if not in law. New bye-laws in regard to common lodging houses are awaiting confirmation.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

No bye-laws governing this class of property have been made by the Corporation, and the usual defects of insufficient water supply and inadequate cooking, washing, food storage and sanitary facilities are prevalent.

FACTORIES ACT.

H.M. Inspector of Factories forwarded to this Authority 10 notices of matters requiring attention at factories, and at the end of the year the work specified in four of these notices had not been carried out. The following factories were on register at the end of the year :—

		Mechanical Power.	No Power.
Bakehouses	... ... ...	20	73
Dressmakers and Milliners	... ...	1	16
Cloggers and Shoemakers	... ...	15	17
Tailors	... ... ...	2	10
Miscellaneous Factories	... ...	78	75
		—	—
		116	191
		—	—

Under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, 18 certificates were granted as to fire escapes.

WORKPLACES—NON-MECHANICAL.

There are 12 work places where mechanical power is not used.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one privately-owned open-air swimming pool in the town, in addition to the Public Swimming Bath. Both are subject to inspection and testing at the instance of this Department. Three samples were submitted for bacteriological examination with satisfactory results.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During 1939, 5 Council houses and 43 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. Five Council houses and 40 other houses were disinfected by spraying with a vermicide and steam disinfection of bedding, etc. In addition the effects of 73 families transferred from Preston Street district to the new Council Housing estate in Brown Square were disinfected by Cimex during removal.

OPEN SPACES.

The town's facilities for open-air exercise and recreation are as follows :—

Corporation Public Parks	...	...	...	...	94	acres
Corporation Recreation Grounds	...	...	...	19	"	
School and Private Sports Grounds	...	...	...	30	"	
Allotments	...	...	...	...	19	"

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The available accommodation is sufficient to meet the needs of the town. No separate mortuary has been provided, but provision has been made for the use of the mortuary and post-mortem room at Chorley and District Hospital.

SECTION D.

Housing.

D. HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	1573
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2459
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	467
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	786
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	929

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1040
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	12
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	64
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
--	---

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
---	---

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	61
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	61
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	325
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	178
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	758

The above tabular statement shows that repairs were carried out or defects remedied in 1040 houses following informal action by the Sanitary Inspector, and in 62 houses after service of formal notices by the Council.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

4 official representations were made by the Medical Officer of Health under sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, with regard to the following houses :—

- 2, Knowley Brow.
- 51a, Bolton Street.
- 24, Leigh Row.
- 1 and 2, Bagganley Lane.
- 12, Blackburn Brow.

In the case of the first 3 premises the Housing Committee decided to accept undertakings from the owners that these premises would be vacated and would not be further used for human habitation until rendered satisfactory to the Committee. The premises 12, Blackburn Brow, were awaiting inspection by the Committee at the outbreak of war. On the 31st December, 1939, the premises 2, Knowley Brow, and 1 and 2, Bagganley Lane, and No. 12, Blackburn Brow, were occupied. With regard to the Preston Street and North Street area the work of demolition in consequence of the Clearance and Demolition Orders previously made by the Corporation was commenced, but owing to the outbreak of war was suspended. A proportion of these houses have been effectively demolished, but a considerable number await demolition, and at the end of 1939 the premises No. 6, Mill Street, were still occupied.

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

During 1939, 107 houses were erected in the town. Of these 17 were erected by the Corporation and 90 by private enterprise.

OVERTROWDING.

The bringing up to date of the overcrowing survey revealed at the end of 1939 61 families to be overcrowded, as compared with 246 families at the end of 1938 and 371 at the preliminary survey of 1937.

During 1939, the construction of the large factory alluded to in last year's report approached completion, with the result a considerable falling off in the number of "lodgers" in the town. The result of this will be seen in the fact of a fall in the number of households shown to be overcrowded, and in the town two common lodging-houses being once more adequate for the town's needs. With the declaration of war, two new problems arose. The first was that there was a slight unofficial evacuation into the town in September, largely from vulnerable areas coming to

stay with relatives. By the end of the year most of these had gone back. Secondly, the Sanitary Staff had to devote considerable time to the inspection of premises selected by the police on behalf of the Military as billets. These varied in number from time to time, the total of 104 having been inspected up to the end of the year. Apart from billets, certain empty houses entirely taken over by the Military were also inspected.

SECTION E.

**Inspection and Supervision
of Food.**

MILK.

The inspection of cowsheds, dairies, and retail purveyors' premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. The following number of milk traders were on the register at 31st December, 1939 :—

Retail Purveyors and Producers	...	...	...	23
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	117
Wholesale Producers	...	...	...	2
Retail Purveyors from outside districts	...	...	...	40

				182

CONTRAVENTIONS.

No. of cases.

Bottling milk on unregistered premises	...	...	...	1
Insufficient ventilation of dairy	...	...	...	2
Dirty Cowsheds	...	...	...	15
Poultry kept in cowsheds	...	...	...	1
Defective drainage of floors	...	...	...	2

The greater part of these contraventions were remedied as the result of informal action.

No action was necessary with regard to milk trade employees suffering from tuberculosis. Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, 3 cows were slaughtered and post-mortem examination revealed tuberculosis in all 3 cases.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, 3 notices requiring detention and isolation of suspected animals were served.

ICE CREAM.

All premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream are registered, and 28 premises were on the register at the 31st December, 1939.

POTTED MEAT, ETC.

Premises used for the preparation or manufacture of potted or preserved meat, fish, etc., must be registered, and at the end of the year 24 such premises were on the register.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

A public abattoir has been provided by the Corporation, and there are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough. All slaughtermen are licensed, and the humane killer is used for all animals.

The accommodation of the big slaughterhouse envisaged in the 1938 report was well advanced at the end of 1939, and it was expected to start using the premises early in 1940.

To ensure that all meat is submitted to a thorough inspection before being offered to the public, bye-laws under section 104 of the Chorley Corporation Act, 1926, require that the Sanitary Inspector be notified of the arrival in town of any meat which has not been inspected and passed as fit by a duly qualified inspector, were enacted by the Local Authority, and received confirmation and came into force during the end of the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Shops, market stalls, vehicles have been subjected to frequent inspection. Many warnings have to be given to those engaged in the handling and transport of food in regard to such matters as cleanliness and the avoidance of contamination.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All animals killed at the slaughterhouse are inspected after slaughter. The incidence of disease in these carcases is shown in the following table :—

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	741	1303	395	9904	5574
Number inspected	741	1303	395	9904	5574
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned...	1	8	7	3	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	167	3	272	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2.2	13.4	2.5	2.8	1.9
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	17	1	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35	353	1	—	279
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.1	28.4	.5	—	5.2

A further 844 carcases were inspected at butchers' shops, and the following quantities of unsound food were condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption during 1939 :—

	lbs.
Tuberculosis carcases or parts	28,639
Diseased, unsound or unwholesome meat (other than above)	11,171
Other unsound food stuffs	45
 Total	 39,855
 Total, 1938	 30,215

On the 1st October, 1939, the Chorley Corporation became a Food and Drug Authority. No sampling was carried out between the 1st October and the 31st December.

THE FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

The Superintendent of Police reports that during 1939, 30 milk and 21 samples of other foodstuffs were purchased in Chorley for analysis by the County Analyst under the provisions of the above Act.

NUTRITION.

No special steps have been taken to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject of Nutrition. At Welfare Centres, School Clinics, etc., every opportunity is taken of stressing the importance of adequate nutrition, especially for children.

SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the Borough.

SECTION F.

**Prevalence of, and Control over
Infectious Diseases.**

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The number of cases notified during 1939, the number of cases admitted to Hospital under the Local Authority's arrangements, and the number of deaths are shown in the following table :—

Disease	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	5	9	16	34	64	38	1
Diphtheria ...	43	48	16	3	110	107	7
Pneumonia ...	16	8	3	7	34	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	3	—	—	4	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	1	2	—	4	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	2	6	4	14	1	—
Para-Typhoid ...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	8	8	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Totals ...	69	71	44	59	243	152	9

SCARLET FEVER.

During 1939 there were 62 cases of Scarlet Fever, as compared with 54 cases in 1938. Of these 38 cases were admitted to Hospital. Where satisfactory home isolation can be obtained patients are not hospitalised. One death was certified as due to Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

107 cases of diphtheria were notified in 1939, as compared with 79 cases in 1938. 7 deaths were due to this disease. Throughout the year 1939 the campaign in favour of anti-diphtheria immunisation was vigorously prosecuted by talks, lectures, and propaganda in the form of leaflets was disseminated. The number of children brought to the immunisation clinics was 936, of whom 120 were found to be negative to a preliminary Schick Test and were given a certificate stating that they were of low natural susceptibility to Diphtheria. 816 children were inoculated, of whom 764 completed the course of 3 injections of T.A.F. Of these 660 were submitted to a further Schick Test at the end of three months, 647 being found to be negative and 13 positive. The 647 were granted certificates of successful inoculation.

Research during the year has indicated that a higher degree of protection is obtained when the intervals between the three injections are extended to, say, 1 month, but this results in the course having to be spread out over 2 months with a certain inevitable loss of parental interest. The shorter intervals of 10 days and a fortnight were therefore maintained.

Since the war it has not been possible to devote the same time and attention to anti-diphtheria prophylaxis by propaganda continuance, but it is hoped shortly to inaugurate another "drive." But it is not easy to maintain contact with and to interest parents who are working long hours, and results of the dimensions of those already attained need not be expected.

The statistics quoted are for the period 1st January, 1939, to 31st January, 1940, as most of the re-Schicks belonging to 1939 had, owing to pressure of work, to be performed during that month.

During the first half of the year the incidence of Diphtheria in the Borough maintained the proportions of a small epidemic, but during the last half of the year there was a marked fall, only 3 cases being notified in the fourth quarter.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.

1 case of the enteric group of fevers was notified in 1939.

ERYSIPelas.

14 cases of Erysipelas were notified as occurring in 1939. 1 of these was admitted to Hospital, and there were no deaths.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA AND POLIO MYELITIS.

No cases of these diseases were notified in 1939.

CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS.

4 cases were notified during 1939. There was 1 death.

ACUTE PNEUMONIA (Primary and Influenza).

During 1939, 31 cases of pneumonia were notified, as compared with 35 cases in 1938. There were no deaths from Pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Measles and Whooping Cough, which have not hitherto generally been notifiable throughout the country, but only in certain districts, have been made compulsorily notifiable by pro-

visional regulations of the Ministry of Health from the 23rd October, 1939, which have subsequently been confirmed by the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940. This has been a considerable step forward in getting the Public Health Department in touch with the actual epidemiology of the town, and it is to be hoped that these diseases will remain compulsorily notifiable.

Owing to a large number of parents engaged in work of national importance, the nursing and care of children suffering from these diseases has been a matter of some anxiety.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was not very prevalent throughout 1939.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

4 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. 1 case was admitted to Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston, and the other 3 were treated in Chorley and District Hospital. All 4 cases recovered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

1 case of Ophthalmic Neonatorum was notified during 1939.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1939, 50 notifications were received in respect of cases of Tuberculosis, of which 26 were Pulmonary and 24 Non-Pulmonary cases. At the end of the year there were 64 Pulmonary and 77 Non-Pulmonary cases on the register. During the year 46 cases were removed from the register by reason of "Died" 15, "Removed out of Chorley" 13, "Disease arrested 3 years" 9, "Disease arrested 5 years" 2, "Diagnosis of T.B. not confirmed" 7.

In 1939, 15 deaths were certified as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and there were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

CANCER.

There were 50 deaths due to Cancer, as compared with 65 in 1938. The cancer death rate per 1,000 population for 1939 was 1.65, as compared with 2.12 in 1938, 2.04 in 1937, and 1.38 in 1936. Reasonable facilities are available in the district for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer by modern methods.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfecting station is situated in Back Street. During 1939, 187 premises were disinfected by means of sulphur or formalin, and 2,973 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., were disinfected by steam.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital is provided by a Joint Hospital Board and serves the Borough and Rural District of Chorley, and the Urban Districts of Leyland and Adlington. The following cases from the Borough were treated in the Hospital during 1939 :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
								—

Of these 170 cases 8 died in the Isolation Hospital.

SECTION G.

Miscellaneous.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

A large, in fact an increasing amount of the time of the Medical Officer of Health and his staff have been devoted to this subject during the year. The usual organisation, First Aid Posts, First Aid Parties, etc., of a non-County Borough are maintained and have been the subject of frequent reports to the proper Committee.

SUPERANNUATION.

The Medical Officer of Health during 1939 examined 37 candidates for employment in the service of the Council.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

Under the Regulations of Movement of Swine Order, 1922, licences were issued on 67 occasions.

8 pigs suspected to have died from Swine Fever were disposed of by burial on the farms.

